

REMARKS

Claims 9-15, 20, 23, 26, 28-30, 32, 33-36, 38 and 39-42 are currently pending. Independent claims 9, 20, 23, 34 and 41 have been amended to further distinguish the claimed subject matter. Dependent claims 28, 32, and 38 have been amended to recite a particular support member shape. Applicants' representative appreciates having had the opportunity to meet with the Examiner on December 16, 2008.

Statement of Substance of Personal Interview of December 16, 2008

On December 16, 2008, Applicants' representative Douglas Pearson met with Examiner Pal Kim at the Office to discuss the present application. In particular, claim 9 and the Oshino reference (EP 1338911 A2) were discussed. Applicants representative proposed the possibility of amending claim 9 (and other independent claims) to include a limitation "the support member having a structure of a closed ring" and "an optical axis of the substrate is positioned inside of the closed ring" since it was believed that the such a limitation would more clearly distinguish the claimed subject matter (non-limiting examples thereof being shown in Figs. 4 and 5 of the present application) from the facially different anchoring members 25 and 52 illustrated in Figs. 2a, 2b and 4 of Oshino, none of which have a structure of a closed ring configured such that an optical axis of an optical substrate is positioned inside the closed ring. The Examiner agreed that such an amendment and arguments appeared persuasive in overcoming the present rejections, all of which are based upon Oshino either as the sole or primary reference.

Art Rejections

The Office Action includes a rejection of claims 9-15, 20, 23, 26, 28-30, 32-36, and 38-42 under 35 USC 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Oshino (EP 1338911 A2). Insofar as Oshino is a European patent (not a US patent), the rejection is understood as being under 35 USC 102(a). The Office Action includes a rejection of claim 16 under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over either Oshino in view of Malyak (USP 6,515,750). Independent claims 9, 20, 23, 34 and 41 have been amended, and these claims are patentable over the applied references.

Claim 9 has been amended and recites a method of manufacturing an optical component, the optical component comprising a substrate having an optical surface and a

mounting frame for mounting the substrate. The method comprises assembling the optical component by mounting the substrate on the mounting frame, the mounting frame comprising a support member and plural attachment members, *the support member having a structure of a closed ring*, the plural attachment members being connected to the support member at plural locations on the support member and separated from one another, the substrate being mounted to the mounting frame via the plural attachment members *such that an optical axis of the substrate is positioned inside the closed ring*. The method also comprises measuring a shape of the optical surface of the substrate, and physically processing the optical surface of the substrate such that the optical surface is modified by said processing. The method requires that the substrate is mounted on the mounting frame including the support member during the measuring of the shape of the optical surface and the processing of the optical surface.

Figures 3, 4, and 5 of the present application illustrate non-limiting examples (see also, paragraphs 0072-0075 of the present application). Figure 3 illustrates optical component 33 comprising a support member (e.g., frame 40) and plural attachment members (e.g., lugs 41), wherein the support member supports an optical substrate (e.g., lens 42 or 43). Figures 3, 4 and 5 illustrate exemplary support members having a shape of closed ring (e.g., frame 135 or frame 235) wherein an optical axis (e.g., axis 3 in Figure 3 and vertical dot-dash line in Figure 5) of the substrate (e.g., mirror 270 in Figure 5) is positioned inside the closed ring.

In contrast, as discussed at the personal interview on December 16, 2008, attachment members 25 and 52 of Oshino do not meet the recited limitations of “the support member having a structure of a closed ring . . . such that an optical axis of the substrate is positioned inside the closed ring” in combination with the other recited limitations. Applicants do not believe that the attachment members 25 and 52 properly correspond to the claimed support member, but even if treated that way for the sake of argument, neither of the attachment members 25 or 52 of Oshino are positioned such that an optical axis of the substrate is positioned inside the closed ring. This is because the attachment members 25 and 52 of Oshino attach to the optical element 20 at the mounting ears 24 thereof (see, e.g., Figures 2(a) and 2(b) of Oshino), whereas the optical axis of the optical element 20 of Oshino is at the point labeled “O” in Figure 2(a) therein and extends out of the plane of the figure. Accordingly, the claimed subject matter is plainly distinguishable from that in Oshino. The Examiner agreed during the interview that claim 9 as amended in this manner would be

distinguishable over Oshino. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 9 are respectfully requested.

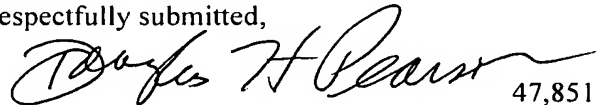
Independent claims 20, 23, 34 and 41 recite similarly distinguishing subject matter and are distinguishable over Oshino at least for similar reasons to those discussed above for claim 9. Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 20, 23, 34 and 41 are respectfully requested. The remaining dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from associated independent claims.

Conclusion

In light of the above, withdrawal of the rejections of record and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Should there be any questions in connection with this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number below.

Date: December 22, 2008

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas H. Pearson

47,851

(Reg. No.)

JONES DAY

51 Louisiana Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20001-2113

(202) 879-3939